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THE TIMES-VIRGINIAN

VOL. XXXIX—NO. 43 — APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA, THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 3, 1925 — ESTABLISHED 1892

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D.D., Dean of the Evening School, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)
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Lesson for December 6

PAUL'S VOYAGE AND SHIPWRECK

LESSON TEXT—Acts 27:1-44.
GOLDEN TEXT—Be of good cheer: for I believe God.—Matt. 4:25.
PRIMARY TOPIC—Paul in a Storm at Sea.
JUNIOR TOPIC—The Story of a Shipwreck.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Paul's Voyage.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Christian Overcoming Adverse Circumstances.

I. The Voyage (vv. 1-20).

1. The Ship (vv. 1-6).

It was a vessel of Alexandria sailing from Myra to Italy.

2. The Company (vv. 1-2).

Two of Paul's friends, Aristarchus and Luke were permitted to go with him. Besides these three there were two hundred and seventy-three in the ship (v. 37).

3. The Storm (vv. 7-20).

The ship made little headway on account of unfavorable winds. Paul advised that they winter in Fair Havens (vv. 9-12), but his advice was unheeded. The gentle south wind deceived them so they loosed from Crete only to be overtaken by the tempestuous wind called Euroclydon. They did everything possible to save the ship; they took up the boat which was towed behind; they bound great cables around the ship to strengthen it for the storm; they lightened the ship by bringing down from the masts and rigging everything that was superfluous, and finally the cargo and tackling were thrown overboard. All this seemed to be of no avail and all hope of being saved was removed. It seemed that wicked men and material forces were combined to prevent the great apostle from reaching Rome. However, these very experiences were overruled by God to bring good cheer and salvation to many on the way. We should remember that tempestuous winds as well as soft breezes await God's faithful ones. The presence of storm does not prove that we are going the wrong way.

II. Paul's Serene Faith (vv. 21-26).

To a man who does not know God upon the failure of the sun and stars to shine for many days, the fading of all hope is natural; but to the man of faith, hope is the purest brightest. God is just as near to His own in the midst of a stormy sea as in their quiet homes

Observe Paul's behavior:

1. His Rebuke for Their Failure to Heed His Advice at Fair Havens (v. 21). This was not a mere taunt, but a reference to the wisdom of his former advice, urging them to give him a more respectful hearing.

2. Bids Them Be of Good Cheer (v. 22).

He inspired them with hope.

3. He Promises Them Safety (v. 22).

Though the ship go to pieces, every man's life should be saved.

4. The Source of His Information (vv. 23-24).

The angel of God had rendered it unto him.

5. The Reason of Paul's Calm Faith (v. 25).

"Whose I am, and whom I serve." God can and will take care of His property (John 10:28-29). Those who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus are not their own, but God's

III. The Ship's Crew All Safe on Land (vv. 27-44).

This was exactly as the Lord had said. We can rest assured that all God has spoken will come to pass even though there be a broken ship, brutal soldiers and a perfidious crew. Aside from the fulfillment of God's promises, the most important part of this section is the splendid sanity which characterized Paul's action on the way. Three things marked his sanctified common sense.

1. His Vigilance Detected That the Sailors Hid Planned to Escape (v. 30).

He knew how much they would be needed presently, and at once took steps to prevent their escape. He went straight to the man in charge and said, "Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved." Why should he make such a declaration when God had said that all should be saved? It was because he was not one of those foolish men who ignore human agency. He practiced the truth that genuine reliance upon God is the all-powerful incentive to human action.

2. He Got Them to Take a Substantial Breakfast (v. 34).

It was no time to talk to these men about their souls when their bodies needed immediate attention.

3. He Gave Thanks to God (v. 35).

This he did in the presence of them all. His prayer for that meal had more effect upon the people than his preaching would have had.

The Man Who Succeed

The men who succeed best in public life are those who take the risk of standing by their own convictions.—Garfield.

Inscriptions

It is a good thing to "write injuries in the dust but kindness in marble."—Christian Observer.

Be Merciful

Let us be merciful as well as just.—Longfellow.

The Inflated Critic

Too often the critic thinks the list of intelligent words begins with "I."—Pawnee Herald.

PROSPECT

A wedding of peculiar interest to the many friends of the contracting parties took place on November 28, 1925, when Marcus Cleaveland Elean, of Kansas City Mo., led to the alter Miss Marie Sheppard Jones. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Otis M. Clarke at Smyrna Methodist church. The maid of honor was Miss Florence Jones, a sister of the bride. The best man was Mr. Joel Elean, a brother of the groom. The church was decorated with Chysanthemums, and cathedral candles, Miss Marcan Pollard sang, "Because," accompanied on the organ by Miss Elizabeth Garnett, Mrs. Norman Pollard played the wedding marches. The bride was given in marriage by Mr. J. L. Jones, her brother, who is also brother-in-law to the groom. Little Royal Jones was ring bearer and he looked unique in the extreme clad in "Little Lord Fauntleroy" suit of black velvet. Little Misses Mary and Pauline Jones were ribbon girls. Mr. John Garnett was master of ceremonies. The ushers were, Nick Jones, Paul and Lawrence Elean. Among those from a distance attending the wedding were, Miss Julia Sheppard and Mr John Sheppard Parsons, of Richmond; Messrs. Joel Elean of Columbia, S. C.; Lawrence Elean, of Williamson, West Va.; and Paul Elean, of Washington, D. C.; and Dr. and Mrs. Brown, of Charlottesville. The costumes were at once tasty, fashionable and elaborate and all went as merry as a marriage bell

This writer and the editor are glad to add a tribute to the memory of the fathers of this bride and groom, for Paul M. Jones and M.C. Elean linger long in the memory of each and we rejoice at the union of these popular and worthy young people who have known each other since childhood, each reared in an atmosphere of culture and refinement, and endowed by nature with natural gifts, which they both cultivated, we can hope and believe that the future holds in store for them a long and happy life, and our only regret is that Kansas City, will gain by what Buckingham county loses, by these good people going out of the county,

Rev. W. H. Ford, of Hampden Va., spent the past week in the home of Mrs. C. E. Chick here and has enjoyed a very successful hunt.

H. D. Baldwin, of Richmond, R. C. Baldwin, of Durham, N. C. and B. C. Baldwin, of Lynchburg, have been with their brother F. G. Baldwin, at his hunting lodge near Prospect.

The shoemaker of Prospect, a man named Fishbeck. has been quite ill for a week or more.

Rev. G. M. Clarke held Thanksgiving services at Prospect Methodist Church on the 26th. The Baptist Church is nearly ready for occupancy. A deserving compliment was extended to Dr. George Henderlite when he was chosen to preach the sermon at the union meeting held in Farmville on Thanksgiving day.

The three churches, Prospect, Appomattox, and Rice pounded their pastor on Thanksgiving. Anyone who feels they did not give as much as they should have done on Thanksgiving day can send a check to Mrs. Baxter Wilkerson, Prospect, marked for "the building fund of Prospect Baptist church.

Miss Fannie G. Haskins, of Quinton, and Mrs. C. A. Maloy, motored here recently for a visit to their relatives at Prospect.

Mr. C. R. Wood and wife have been on a bridal trip to Florida and are now domiciled at Dillwyn where they will make their home.

Mr. J. Horace White has been appointed Mayor of Dillwyn, since Hon. C. R. Wood resigned.

Mr. Joseph Hazelgrove has been appointed a Supervisor in Cumberland county to succeed the late R. L. Agee.

There are three applicants for the position of Supervisor of Lockett District in Prince Edward which will be vacant when Mr. Basil Bruce resigns to take his seat in the Legislature.

The tobacco growers of Prospect district sent a resolution to the board of directors of the association which met in Richmond Nov. 24th, proposing that the tobacco growers of the 14 counties of the dark tobacco belt of Virginia be allowed to sell the present crop on the open market, but the directors seemed to have ignored the proposition.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Vaughan, of Prospect, are in order. Mr. Vaughan is secretary of the tobacco association of Prince Edward county and with his bride was a visitor in Richmond while the board of directors were in session.

SPOUT SPRING

Thanksgiving passed off unusually quiet here. Our neighborhood was filled with hunters.

Miss Helen Dickerson delightfully entertained her Sunday school class last Saturday evening. Games and good eats were enjoyed. Let's join her class.

Miss Constance Collins and Bertha May Spencer, of Lynchburg, spent several days with Miss Sara Bates last week.

Mr. Frank Robertson spent Thanksgiving with his grandfather Mr. J. H. Robertson here.

Mr. Herman Taylor, of Lynchburg is visiting his uncle, Mr. Bob Alvis.

Mr. Dave Alvis and daughter, Virginia, motored to Petersburg to spend Thansgiving with his daughter.

Misses Alma Murphy and Mamie Cullop have returned home from Norfolk, where they visited in the former's home.

Quite a number of our young people attended the dance given at the home of Miss Hamner Coleman last Thursday night.

Mr. Edward Bates has returned to his work in Lynchburg after spending a week at his home here hunting.

HIXBURG

Thanksgiving day was one of real thankfulness in the home of Mrs. J. W. Harwood, the following children were home for the day, Mr. and Mrs A. R. Harwood, Alice, Eleanor, and Alfred, Jr., of Appomattox: Mr and Mrs. J. B. Abraham, of Alexandria: Rev. and Mrs. S. G. Harwood, of Jarratt; J. P. Harwood, of Richmond; Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Hix, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Hix and Barbara, of this place. Miss Ella Drinkard, of Lynchburg; Mrs. Carrie Blankford, of Jarratt, and Mr. W. M. Hancock, of Appomattox. were other guests on this occasion. The gentlement hunted all the morning with more or less success, while the ladies chatted away the pleasant hours, at 12:30 a double table was loaded with a regular old time Thanksgiving dinner, there was everything good to eat any body could call for. More hunting, more talking, a good old "sing" around the piano, and home going time came all too soon for all the happy gathering.

Mr. H. B. Swan, of Bluefield, West Va., visited his mother, Mrs. Ella Swan here recently.

Prof. J. Talmage Davis, of Lynchburg, was the guest of Mrs. J. W. Davis recently.

Messrs. Harry and Eugene Gilliam recently visited Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Marshall.

Miss Rosa Fore of Richmond, has returned home after visiting Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Fore.

Miss Ruth Swan of Lynchburg College has returned after spending Thanksgiving with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Swan.

Messrs. J. E. Gray, of Richmond, and Mr. W. R. Gray, of Mt. Hope, W. Va. visited Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Davis here recently.

Mr. Edwin Fore recently had an automobile wreck in which his mother, Mrs. J. R. Fore, was painfully hurt, but is rapidly recovering.

A. B. Meadows, of Appomattox, spent last week end in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Southall.

W. A. Swan, J. T Coleman, W. D. Hix, J. H. McCue, E. F. Covington, Ira Burrell, Allen Hardy, R. W. Bristow, attended court at Appomattox last Tuesday.

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